

Order Bulletin

The Maryland Fruit Grower



Published Monthly

By

THE MARYLAND STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
College Park, Maryland

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Number 9

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REPORTS ON NEW VARIETIES

By J. H. Clark, New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station
New Brunswick, N. J.

In the past most of our new varieties have come from chance seedlings. We would find if we went into the past history of most of our standard varieties that they are simply seedlings that someone had found growing somewhere and thought it was worth while putting out. In the future I believe most of our good varieties will come from people who are making a specialty of plant breeding, because the standards are getting higher all the time. If they weren't there would be no point in discarding the old ones which have been satisfactory in the past.

Another thing is that the plant breeder will have an immense number of new seedlings, new varieties to select from. Furthermore, he is combining in his seedlings the best qualities of a number of the older varieties and therefore his chances of getting something good are better than in the selection of chance seedlings.

There are many varieties that look very good at first but after they have been in existence for a few more years, exposed to various diseases and pests and tried out under different soil and climatic conditions they often look different. It is entirely natural, therefore, that quite a good many new varieties fall by the wayside.

Apples. My remarks this morning about particular varieties will be largely based on the opinions of various growers. I thought perhaps you would be more interested in how varieties behave with other growers than in my own opinion, so I have written to a number of growers asking about certain varieties and I will quote them in many cases. Many new varieties have been handicapped somewhat because they were over-praised at the start. I think that has been one of the troubles with the Cortland apple. Any variety that starts out with a handicap like that is likely to have hard sledding, because just as soon as it doesn't behave in ideal fashion people say it isn't any good. However, it seems to me that in that last year or two Cortland has started to come up considerably in general value. Three or four years ago we heard a number of discouraging reports about it. We are now beginning to hear a few more encouraging ones.

Prof. Blake, in telling me his opinion of this variety previous to the meeting, said that he considered it one of the most promising in the Experiment Station collection; that it holds to the tree well but must be picked at the right time. It looks like a pretty good variety to follow McIntosh for quick sales.

Mr. Howard De Cou says it seems to be making good.

Lemuel Black jikes it very much. He says that it is a good annual bearer, colors and sizes well, ripens a week later than the McIntosh but drops just as badly.

I think you will find that we are expecting it to hang on like Ben Davis and that it may disappoint you a little bit. I believe it will hang on considerably better than McIntosh.

Mr. F. S. Neipling of Waterford is well pleased with it, although he found that it dropped considerably.

Mr. Robert Haines says that it is a promising variety, uniform in size,

good quality and fair color.

You can see that most of these reports are rather favorable and even where it is dropping the growers are pretty well pleased with it, so it seems to me we can give Cortland a better recommendation this year than we have done in the meetings of the past.

I won't say much about Lobo. That is a variety that has been mentioned here a good many times. It isn't new any more but it is still giving a pretty good account of itself and I have several favorable reports on it.

Somewhat the same thing may be said with regard to Melba. It seems to be a high quality variety which if well grown is a good thing for the local market or roadside market, but, of course, too soft to stand distant shipping.

We haven't fruited the early McIntosh yet at New Brunswick. All I have seen of it in New Jersey is some on Lester Collins' farm and I wasn't particularly taken with it. It doesn't look as attractive as Melba to me. It might be worth trying on a small scale.

Turley is a variety which has been given some prominence in the west and this year we had a top-worked tree at New Brunswick that looked about as nice as any variety I have ever seen. Although the crop was heavy, it sized up pretty well and was very uniform. The only question about Turley is whether or not it is going to be a satisfactory cropper. We haven't had enough experience at New Brunswick to find out.

Mr. Howard De Cou says that with him it is a rather shy bearer and that appears to be one of its faults, although we can not be sure for some time to come.

The various Red Sports of Rome Beauty and Delicious are continuing to give a good account of themselves. Some questioned two or three years ago whether the Red Sports would size up as well as the varieties from whence they came. From what I have seen of Red Romes this season it has sized up just as well as the ordinary Rome Beauty. I think probably that depends somewhat on which Red Rome we speak about. We are inclined to call them all Red Romes here because it is pretty hard to tell them apart, but there are several of them in existence. Some of them probably are seedlings, others are Red Bud Sports, and I would be inclined to expect just as good size on the Sport as on the variety from which it came. If you have a seedling which is so near like the old variety, except in color, that you can hardly tell them apart, you might have a difference in size.

Several other new varieties are receiving considerable attention nowadays. Two varieties, from the Geneva Experiment Station, namely, Orleans and Medina, have been spoken of favorably there, but Mr. De Cou has fruited them and doesn't find them very well suited to conditions.

Anoka is a variety from South Dakota which is fruiting with us. Prof. Blake reports that it ripens with Duchess or a little bit later, is very early to bear and very productive, but the quality is not much better, if any better, than Duchess. It drops rather badly and is inclined to become punky in hot weather. It is worth watching as a variety for that particular season but I hope eventually that we can get varieties of better quality.

The Petrel continues to be a promising home orchard variety to follow Melba. It is a very delicious apple to eat, large, but it is too soft to ship very well. It might be satisfactory for roadside markets and certainly is a good home orchard variety.

The Dolgo crab apple fruited with us this year. It is a very attractive,

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bright red crab apple of medium size or a little below medium, and makes a very pleasing colored jelly. I think if any of you are interested in crab apples that is one worth trying.

Peaches. Now so far as peaches are concerned, I am just going to give you some of the statements I have received.

Some of the Experiment Station seedlings, such as Eclipse, Cumberland, Oriole and Pioneer, have now been fruiting long enough to get a good idea of their value. Mr. Clinton Clement of Locust Grove Farm is fruiting Eclipse, Cumberland and Golden Jubilee and thinks enough of all of them to plant them again if necessary. They came through with a good crop when others were killed by frost this year. They sell well and are of excellent quality.

Mr. J. C. Hendrickson of Middleton has fruited Eclipse. He reports that they are rather small but of excellent quality and good for the roadside market.

Mr. R. S. Terhune of Mercer County reported that it had a good crop, good in quality, much appreciated by local trade, but not very well adapted to his soil, which is rather heavy.

Mr. R. P. Hulsart of Manasquan thinks Eclipse is one of the best varieties of this season. Cumberland has been fruited by several people and is giving good account of itself.

Golden Jubilee has been planted quite exclusively but not many of the trees are in bearing so we haven't any performance records on a commercial basis.

Prof. Blake says that the Oriole is receiving some favorable comments in sections north of here, especially in Massachusetts, Michigan and Northern Pennsylvania, and the indications are that it may be of some value in these sections as a commercial variety. In this state it is proving to be a pretty good roadside market variety of high quality.

Prof. Blake also has given me a statement with regard to Salberta and several other varieties. Salberta again proved this year to be a better late variety than either Roberta or Augbert because of a heavier crop.

The Hope Farm peach produced a few fruits in New Brunswick this year. It resembled Belle, ripened about with Hale and was a little better than Belle in quality.

Grapes. I will just mention a few varieties of grapes. The Sheridan probably has the most promise as a commercial variety of any of the newer seedlings that have been tried out. At New Brunswick it has looked very good the last two years in spite of the fact that some of the growing conditions were not exactly favorable. It yields as much or more than Concord, has a more attractive compact bunch, considerably better quality, ripens ten days to two weeks later and is a much better keeper than Concord. If it is under-pruned it will over-bear and ripen unevenly. A grape of that season which doesn't ripen because the berries have been caught by cold weather while they are still red instead of a dark blue will have very poor quality. Sheridan should be fed well and pruned quite heavily for best results. In northern sections it might not ripen up but in New Jersey the average season will be long enough for it. Mr. Robert Haines has been watching it for a few years on Lester Collins' farm near Moorestown and reports that it hasn't done so well for him.

Mr. Theron McCampbell of Monmouth County has probably the largest planting in the State and he is quite enthusiastic about it. He would plant

it in preference to Concord.

There are a couple of early varieties from the Geneva Station which are worth considering which haven't been mentioned here very much before. We have often mentioned Ontario and Portland as promising early varieties, especially for home use. There are newer ones than those, namely, Melton, a white grape, and Fredonia, a blue grape, which look very good. Fredonia ripens very early and may replace Moore's Early as an early blue grape.

Golden Muscat is a Geneva seedling which is considered very promising. We fruit it in New Brunswick and although it looked pretty good, I don't consider it quite as good quality as Sheridan.

The Champagne grape has often been mentioned in this society. It is not particularly new but you may be interested in knowing that this year I have received some reports from people that are beginning to think that they have too many of them and wondering what they can use in place of it. It is so soft that you can hardly expect to sell it as a fresh-eating grape in any quantity and build up much of a trade. It is a good juice grape and produces quite a heavy tonnage.

If you see the Jersey Muscat mentioned as a variety which you have never heard of before, that is the same thing as the Champagne. One of our grape growers of the State has given it the name of Jersey Muscat and advertised it quite heavily.

Raspberries. Just a little bit about raspberries and strawberries. Latham continues to look the most promising of the raspberry varieties. We were undecided a little bit for some time as to whether or not Viking, a Canadian seedling, might not give Latham a pretty good run. I think it will be a home garden variety because it is considerably better quality than Latham, but we have had them growing side by side for a couple of years and Latham has considerably outyielded Viking. Most people seeing the two rows in fruiting bet on Viking but when they considered the actual number of pints harvested, Latham came out ahead. It has a little longer picking season, which probably accounts for it. Viking, of course, is earlier than Latham and the two would fit in together pretty well.

The most promising new variety of raspberry which I have seen is the Newburgh of the Geneva Experiment Station. It is a very productive; the berries are very large and what is most important in my opinion, it is a very hard berry. Mr. De Cou planted quite a few of them this spring; some of those fruited this summer and the berries would hang on there for days and still remain hard and in good condition. There is no other variety of red raspberry that I know of that will do that. Certainly with a large berry that is something worth considering. Of course, probably some faults will show up, but it looks very promising indeed.

The Geneva Station, as you know, raise thousands of raspberry seedlings and they tell me that if Newburgh doesn't come through they don't know what will. It is the most promising thing that they have had in that line.

Another raspberry variety which has been given considerable publicity is one called the Chief from Minnesota. That is where the Latham came from, you know, so they have quite a reputation for raspberry varieties. The Chief is supposed to be one of the best. I understand that one or two nurseries have taken this variety up and are pushing it. One of our New Jersey nurseryman is acting as an agent for it and they are making considerable claims about it being more productive and altogether superior to Latham.

We fruited Chief at New Brunswick some three or four years ago before it was named and it did so poorly that we discarded it. After it was named I got more plants to try out again. It just shows you that a variety that may be very good in Minnesota may not be quite so good here in the east. If I were going to plant the Chief, I certainly would do it only for trial and not on any large scale.

Strawberries. Among the new varieties of strawberries perhaps the Blakemore is the only new one that you are likely to come in contact with. It was originated by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and has been given some publicity. It might be well to remember that in breeding the Blackemore the men doing the work were interested more in the southern berry than they were in one for our conditions. They were particularly interested in preserving berries. It is an early variety and a little bit tart, it seems to me, for best dessert purposes, so while it may be a very fine variety for sections south of here, I don't look for it to become a very important variety as a market berry in New Jersey. I think it is worth trying, but I wouldn't try it on too large a scale.

Some of the other government seedlings look very good, a new one being named this year. They now have under test some 30 or 40 thousand seedlings and certainly there ought to be some good ones. We are still in the market for a good commercial strawberry and I hope they fine one.

Among the several thousand Geneva seedlings I haven't seen any that I consider particularly outstanding for our conditions. We are testing several of them at New Brunswick, but I want to test them quite a little bit further before I recommend them for planting in the State.

I think it ought to be emphasized that small fruit varieties are rather particular as to the conditions under which they are grown and varieties which may be very fine in Michigan, Minnesota, or California may be practically worthless here. That is also true with fruits, of course, but I believe is more true with the small fruits.

From Proceedings of the New Jersey State Horticultural Society, December, 1930.

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A. F. Vierheller, Extension Horticulturist.

Looking Ahead

Just as the business man and manufacturer are awaiting and expecting revival of better conditions, so must the farmer and fruit grower hopefully face the future. Unless the old tradition has changed, the men who have built up farms, or set out orchards, and who have weathered, with a smile, the attacks of freeze, drought, hail, insects and disease, will not allow that smile to be wiped off their faces. In spite of present conditions we must plan ahead. This is the time to take stock of unprofitable trees or varieties, to replant missing trees, or plan any changes in the orchard program or operations.

This issue of the "Fruit Grower" is devoted to *planting*. Extension of present plantings is not recommended unless the grower has a sure market. The advisability of replanting to replace any parts of present acreage is a question to be decided by the individual grower.

We all know the operations of tree planting. Prune roots as little as possible. Tramp soil firmly about the roots as the tree is set. Prune the top of the newly set tree as much as seems necessary to develop a good future framework.

The grower seems more interested in varieties. What should he plant? How are the new varieties showing up? There is not a lot of definite information about them, as they are still on trial in various states. Practically every new fruit variety is on trial at the Horticultural Farm, University of Maryland Experiment Station.

The paper in this issue "Notes on New Varieties," is based on New Jersey conditions and is presented without comment for the growers' information.

The Winter Meeting

It is time to plan for the annual winter meeting of the Society. We want to make it the best ever. It's up to *you* to decide what topics should be discussed. This is your organization. Right now before you forget it, write out suggested subjects on the enclosed sheet and mail it to A. F. Vierheller, College Park, Maryland. Speakers are hard to get unless we engage them early. It's to your interest to help arrange the program. *Do it now.*

BULLETINS

Just a few of the newer bulletins are listed below. These bulletins may be obtained by writing to the experiment stations from which such bulletins are published. Look over the following list and write for the bulletins in which you are interested.

Fruit Washing

- Bulletin No. 345—Spray Residue and Its Removal From Apples—Purdue Agricultural Experiment Station, Lafayette, Ind. (Feb., 1931.)
Extension Bulletin 87—Modern Methods of Removing Spray Residues From Apples and Pears—Extension Service, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey. (June, 1931.)
Station Circular 92—The Oregon Apple-washer—Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station, Corvallis, Oregon. (May, 1929.)
Technical Bulletin 245—Arsenical and Other Fruit Injuries of Apples Resulting From Washing Operations—U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. (June, 1931.) Price 10 cents.
Station Bulletin 242—The Occurrence and Prevention of Calyx Injury in Apples from the Hood River Valley—Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station, Corvallis, Oregon. (May, 1929.)

Insects and Diseases

- Circular No. 37—Apple Scab Spraying Experiments in Tennessee—Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station, Knoxville, Tennessee. (April, 1931.)
Circular No. 36—Canker Treatment for Fire-Blight Control—Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station, Knoxville, Tennessee. (March, 1931.)
Circular Bulletin No. 137—Pests of Apple and Pear in Michigan—Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station, East Lansing, Michigan. May, 1931.)
Extension Bulletin No. 176—Insect and Disease Problems of the Peach Grower—Extension Service, Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana. (May, 1931.)
Circular No. 177—Control of Botrytis Rot of Pears with Chemically Treated Wrappers—U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. (August, 1931.)

General Fruit Growing

- Extension Bulletin No. 171—Peach Pointers—Extension Service, Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana. (December, 1930.)
Bulletin No. 249—Relation of Foliage to Fruit Size and Quality in Apples and Pears—Washington Agricultural Experiment Station, State College of Washington, Pullman, Washington. (Feb., 1931.)
Bulletin 199—Growing Fruit for Home Use—Extension Service, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. (Nov., 1930.)
Bulletin No. 326—Effect of Fall Applications of Sodium Nitrate Upon the Color, Keeping Quality and Nitrogen Content of Apples—Maryland

Agricultural Experiment Station, College Park, Maryland. (May, 1931.)

✓ Bulletin 327—Peach Rejuvenation Studies in Maryland—Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station, College Park, Maryland. (May, 1931.)

✓ Extension Circular 1260—Pruning Fruit Trees—Extension Service, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska. (Feb., 1931.)

Bulletin 483—Factors Affecting Fruit Setting on Stayman Winesap—Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, Wooster, Ohio. (Aug., 1931.)

Bulletin 454—Raspberries and Blackberries in Ohio—Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, Wooster, Ohio. (June, 1930.)

Bulletin 283—Fruit Pollination—Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station, Columbia, Missouri. (March, 1930.)

Bulletin 511—Length of the Fruit Development Period of the Elberta and Some Other Varieties of Peaches—New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, New Brunswick, New Jersey. (Oct., 1930.)

✓ Bulletin 261—Soil Organic Matter as a Factor in the Fertility of Apple Orchards—Pennsylvania Agricultural Experiment Station, State College, Pennsylvania. (Jan., 1931.)

✓ Bulletin 415—Sour Cherry Fruiting—Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station, Madison, Wisconsin. (May, 1930.)

✓ Extension Circular 50—Essentials of Irrigation and Cultivation of Orchards—Extension Service, University of California, Berkeley, California. (Dec., 1930.)

Miscellaneous

Bulletin 239—Stationary Spray Systems in West Virginia—West Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, Morgantown, West Virginia. (Jan., 1931.)

✓ Special Bulletin 130—Making of the Home Lawn—Extension Division, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota. (July, 1931.)

✓ Extension Bulletin 178—Planning and Planting the Indiana Farmstead—Extension Service, Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana. (May, 1931.)

Circular 141—Beekeeping in Pennsylvania—Extension Service, Pennsylvania State College, State College, Pennsylvania. (April, 1931.)

Niagara

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